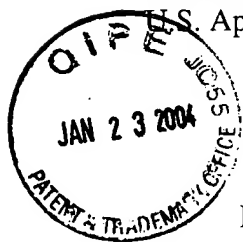


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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Appln. No. 09/508,252



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REMARKS

Preliminarily, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document from the International Bureau.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11 and 12 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,440,559. In support thereof, the Examiner cites to column 3, line 15, et seq. as disclosing the claimed segmented polyethylene glycol, as well as in the claims.

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider for the following reasons.

The independent claims are claims 1 and 8. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, whereas claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 8.

The "granular polytetrafluoroethylene powder" of present claim 1 refers to PTFE powder after granulation, not to PTFE powder before granulation. That is, present claim 1 is directed to a process for preparing a low-electrostatically-charging granular polytetrafluoroethylene powder prepared by contacting a nonionic surfactant with granular PTFE powder, i.e., PTFE powder after granulation.

On the other hand, the claims of U.S. 6,440,559 relate to a process for granulating in the presence of a nonionic surfactant, and PTFE granular powder obtained by the process. Present

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claim 1 differs from the claims of U.S. 6,440,559 in that the claims of U.S. 6,440,559 do not describe contacting a nonionic surfactant with PTFE powder after granulation.

The significance of the above-noted feature of the present invention is set forth in the working examples of the present specification as summarized below.

In Example 3 of the present specification (pages 15-20), Puroton #208 (segmented polyalkylene glycol) was added in the amount of 0.025% by weight based on the PTFE, and the electrostatic charge of the thus obtained PTFE granular powder was 3V. Importantly, in Example 3 of the present invention, the surfactant was contacted with the PTFE powder after granulation. See page 16, lines 15-20 of the specification.

On the other hand, in Experimental Example 1 of U.S. 6,440,559, bridging cols. 8-9, Puroton # 208 was added in an amount of 1.6% by weight based on the PTFE, and the electrostatic charge of the thus obtained PTFE granular powder was 3V. Importantly, in U.S. 6,440,559, the PTFE powder was contacted with the nonionic surfactant and then granulated. See col. 8, lines 43-54 of U.S. 6,440,559.

The above-noted results demonstrate that when the same surfactant is used, the effect of reducing electrostatic charge is greater when the PTFE's powder is contacted with the surfactant after granulation as claimed in present claim 1. That is, the invention of present claim 1 has the effect of reducing electrostatic charge of PTFE using an extremely small amount of surfactant in comparison to U.S. 6,440,559. In view of this unobvious difference, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and claims 3 and 4 depending therefrom are patentable over the claims of U.S. 6,440,559.

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Claim 8 of the present application is directed to PTFE granular powder containing 10 to 70 ppm of segmented polyalkylene glycol and having an electrostatic charge of not more than 10 V.

On the other hand, present claims 4, 8 and 11 of U.S. 6,440,559 specify an electrostatic charge of not more than 50 V. Thus, the invention of present claims 8, 11 and 12 differs from the claims of U.S. 6,440,559 with respect to electrostatic charge.

Moreover, U.S. 6,440,559 does not describe the content of the segmented polyalkylene glycol.

The invention of claim 8 of the present application has the excellent effect of reducing electrostatic charge of PTFE granular powder to at most 10 V by incorporating a small amount of 10 to 70 ppm of segmented polyalkylene glycol, which PTFE granular powder is obtained by the process of present claim 1. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claim 8 and claims 11 and 12 depending therefrom is patentable over the claims of U.S. 6,440,559.

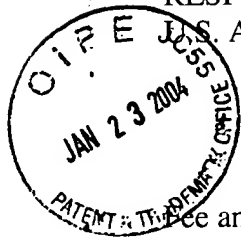
In view of the above, withdrawal of the foregoing obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11 and 12 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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